

Strengthening Iowa through Economic Development:

The Harkin Legacy of Leveraging Federal Resources for Iowa Schools, Health, Infrastructure

Over the course of his 40 year career, Senator Tom Harkin has had a proud working relationship with community leaders across Iowa to promote economic development. From Iowa's small towns to the City of Des Moines, he has consistently supported federal programs and directed funding for projects that translate to jobs and economic growth in Iowa and greater opportunities for Iowans. Over the course of his career, Harkin has directed Congressional funding worth billions in support of projects all across the state.

For Harkin, helping to create these economic opportunities has been a multi-faceted effort to ensure that Iowa's workforce is healthy and well-educated, that research institutions in the state play a key role keeping the economy vibrant and innovative, and that well developed infrastructure promotes high quality of life and provides businesses and farmers with an opportunity to move their products quickly, safely, and affordably to markets.

PRESERVING MAIN STREETS, IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE, AND FOSTERING INNOVATION

PRESERVING IOWA'S SMALL TOWN HISTORY — Growing up in the small town of Cumming, Harkin learned the value of preserving and creating economic opportunities for small town Iowans. **Since 2002, he has secured nearly \$5 million dollars in federal funds for the [Main Street Iowa](#) program.** More than 85 different communities in Iowa — from Bedford to Elkador to Greenfield to [Mason City](#)— have been able to revitalize downtown communities and preserve the small town Iowa history as the result of Main Street grants. These funds have generated more than \$36 million in direct private investment, providing one-on-one assistance to hundreds of downtown business owners. In addition, the federal investment has resulted in a 72 to1 multiplier effect, offering jobs and increased commercial activity in downtowns across the state.

STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE — Connecting rural Iowa with markets around the state and beyond requires a strong infrastructure system, which includes sturdy roads and bridges as well as reliable air and rail service. These transportation systems are just as vital to businesses and residents in larger cities and towns across the state. That's why Senator Harkin has consistently delivered transportation and infrastructure development projects across the state, [including recreational trails](#) and highway improvements such as expanding the [Pella](#) bypass and widening U.S. Highway 163. From securing nearly \$120 million in federal funds to construct the ***Avenue of the Saints through eastern Iowa***, to consistently fighting to protect ***Essential Air Service***, which provides support to rural airports that would not otherwise receive scheduled air service, Harkin has tirelessly fought to improve infrastructure in Iowa.

[DUBUQUE](#) Since he joined the United States Senate in 1986, Harkin **has secured more than \$100 million in federal funding that has helped to shape the rebirth of Dubuque.** Working with local leaders and other members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation, projects in Dubuque that Harkin has helped fund have provided four-lane highway access to the city, opened up new

areas for development along the Mississippi River, and renovated the downtown. Together these investments have brought new jobs and new residents and helped to make Dubuque a jewel along the Mississippi.

DES MOINES Harkin's efforts have had similar success in Des Moines, where he has worked with local leaders and the Iowa Congressional Delegation to help **secure more than \$275 million for over 100 infrastructure projects in the Des Moines area since 2001**. Beginning in 1989, Harkin recognized the value of developing transportation infrastructure that would expand economic development in downtown and areas directly south of downtown Des Moines, and secured over \$60 million for projects like the development of MLK Jr. Parkway, SE Connector, and the DART Central Station.

SIOUX CITY Beginning in 1986, Harkin led efforts to better protect Sioux City residents from floods by improving flood control around Perry Creek. After touring the damage resulting from the flooding of Perry Creek in 1990, Harkin worked to prevent delays, provide additional funding for the project, and create a greenbelt along Perry Creek. In all, Harkin's efforts have **helped contributed in excess of \$50 million in federal funds to this project in Sioux City**.

HOUSING , SEWERS, INTERNET SERVICE Harkin's work to improve Iowa's infrastructure goes beyond roads and bridges. In communities like [Council Bluffs](#), [Marshalltown](#), and [Ft. Dodge](#), Harkin has secured millions of dollars to renovate housing and redevelop neighborhoods. Since 2001, more than \$7.8 million in federal funding has helped to improve sewer and water systems in communities such as Spencer, [Carroll](#), [Davenport](#), and [Keokuk](#). Across rural Iowa, Harkin's work to invest in broadband has translated to over \$130 million in investments across the state. Importantly, between 1992 and 2004 he secured approximately \$50 million in federal funds for the STAR Schools Program, which has helped to link Iowa schools to the Iowa Communications Network so that Iowa students and educators have access to high speed internet services.

HARNESSING THE POWER OF RURAL IOWA — The economic landscape of Iowa has changed tremendously during Harkin's career in Congress. As the [author of two farm bills](#) and as a senior member for a third bill, Harkin has worked to harness the economic power of rural America by promoting energy efficiency and developing [renewable energy](#) resources. **Under his leadership, the 2002 farm bill was the first farm bill ever to include an energy title**, a source of innovative policies to develop and promote the use of biofuels, biobased products, renewable energy, and energy efficiency programs. Iowa now leads the nation in biofuels production, with 42 ethanol plants and 12 biodiesel plants supporting about 70,000 jobs across the state. Similarly, thanks to the Biorefinery Assistance Program that Harkin authored in the 2008 farm bill, Iowa is at the forefront in the nation with three advanced biorefineries nearing completion.

CREATING A FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH — Senator Harkin has championed federal funding for research that has translated into new products and businesses for Iowa. Harkin efforts to double funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) over a five year period and direct funding to the Agricultural Research Service have translated into new opportunities for both the University of Iowa and Iowa State University, with direct economic development benefits to the [Ames](#) and [Iowa City](#) areas. Companies like Integrated DNA in Coralville and Etrema Products in Ames are examples of how federal research dollars have led to jobs and greater economic opportunity for Iowans. Similarly, Harkin's work to secure more than \$468 million in federal funds to construct the National Animal Disease Center in Ames and to ensure continued federal support for the Ames Lab have helped make Iowa a leader in key areas of scientific research of national importance.

KEEPING IOWA A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Part of what makes Iowa an attractive place to live, work, and raise a family is a high quality of life. That means great schools of all levels, which leads to a well-educated workforce, opportunities to access quality, affordable health care, and [safe communities](#). For that reason, Senator Harkin has viewed investments in health care and education as investments that benefit Iowans young and [old](#) and Iowa businesses alike and he has championed a number of innovative programs that have successfully contributed to improving education and health care across the state.

PROMOTING EDUCATION FROM BIRTH TO COLLEGE — Senator Harkin believes that there is no better investment than in the education of young Iowans, which is vital to the long-term future of Iowa's economy. The Harkin School Grant program, has delivered \$132.6 million for modernizing schools across Iowa and ensuring they are safe and up-to-date. These funds have been leveraged by \$632 million in local funding, benefiting schools and students all across the state. Similarly, as part of developing a strong base of skilled workers across the state, Harkin has fought to bring the cost of college within reach by working to increase funding for Pell Grants. Under his leadership, the size of the maximum Pell grant increased from \$2,300 in 1989-1990 to \$5,350 in 2009-2010, making college more affordable for millions of Iowa students. In bringing two [Job Corps Centers](#) to Iowa, Harkin has helped provide hundreds of young Iowans with opportunities to succeed. Importantly, his work to secure funding for research and economic development projects at universities and community colleges in Iowa have not only helped to provide better opportunities for students at these schools, but have helped to provide Iowa businesses with a network of skilled, highly-trained workers.

HELPING IOWANS STAY HEALTHY — Through his leadership of the Senate Health Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Harkin has supported numerous projects and programs to help keep Iowans healthy. In particular, in this capacity, he has provided significant support to Iowa's [community health centers](#), which are on the front lines of providing care to more than 181,000 Iowans every year. Under Harkin's leadership, national funding for these centers tripled between 1989 and 2014 and the number of centers in Iowa grew from only 2 in 1989 to 14 in 2014. These centers now serve Iowans at over 85 different clinics in all corners of the State, towns that range in size from Cedar Rapids to Sioux Center, and range in distances from [Waterloo](#) to Ottumwa. Thanks to his leadership, every community health center in Iowa now has at least one dental chair.

Similarly, Senator Harkin has long focused on expanding access to health career training, which has helped to ensure that Iowans benefit from better trained health professionals and has grown the number of good quality jobs in the health care sector. Since fiscal year 2004, Harkin has secured \$1.1 million for the Iowa Caregiver Association to expand their one and two year training and certification programs for direct care workers, primarily those that work in home health and nursing home settings. Over seven years, he secured \$12 million for Iowa's community college training programs that help students become nurses and other health professionals, reducing and eliminating wait lists for those programs. In 2002 and 2003, he worked with the University of Iowa to create programs to train nurse anesthetists in rural hospitals. Keeping these professionals in the community ensures that rural hospitals can continue to provide lifesaving surgeries, including appendectomy, birthing services, and arterial bypass surgery. On a state level, Harkin provided over \$4 million in federal funding for the Iowa Department of Public Health to create the Center of Health Care Workforce Planning, which works to ensure that Iowa's training programs are supplying a stable, well-qualified, diverse, and sustainable health care workforce in Iowa.

In 2005, he created the Harkin Wellness Grant program, which provided over \$5.3 million to promote healthier lifestyles in Iowa by helping dozens of local governments, community organizations, and non-profits develop creative approaches to promoting community wellness. This program served as a

precursor to The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) grant program, which Harkin also created. PICH invests \$50 million annually in community-based efforts across the country to make it easier for people to make healthy choices and take charge of their health.

PROMOTING ART AND SCIENCE — Some of Iowa's most popular and prestigious institutions have benefited from Harkin's leadership on the Appropriations Committee. From the Figge Art Museum in Davenport, to the Science Center of Iowa and the [World Food Prize Foundation in Des Moines](#), the Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids, the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Harkin has secured almost \$20 million in support that have created or helped these institutions to flourish.

RECOVERING FROM NATURAL DISASTERS — Iowans know far too well the cost of natural disasters to communities and businesses across the state. That's why both before and after disaster strikes, Harkin has worked to ensure that Iowans receive the federal support they need and deserve to rebuild.

The 2008 floods devastated communities along the Cedar and Iowa Rivers, perhaps none more severely than the City of [Cedar Rapids](#). In response to the floods, Harkin worked closely with community leaders, county officials, and the Iowa Congressional delegation to help the community rebuild. In the immediate aftermath of the floods, **Harkin led a bipartisan group of Midwestern Senators to secure more than \$12 billion in emergency federal funds to support flood recovery**. Iowa received a substantial share of that funding, which provided critical support to communities like Cedar Rapids immediately after the floods. Additionally, **Harkin successfully fought for \$182 million dollars in emergency disaster funds that enabled the construction of a new federal courthouse in downtown Cedar Rapids**, and since the immediate recovery work has dissipated, Harkin has led federal efforts to protect Cedar Rapids from future flooding by securing funding from the Army Corps of Engineers to modernize the flood control system protecting Cedar Rapids.

Unfortunately, 2008 wasn't the first time that Iowans have had to recover after significant floods. [The Great Flood of 1993](#) caused more than \$150 million in damage to Polk County, cutting off water service in Des Moines for a week and inundating more than 3,000 properties. Since that time, Harkin has worked closely with community leaders to protect Des Moines and prepare for the potential for future flooding. Following the 1993 floods, the City of Des Moines and the Army Corps of Engineers developed a strategy to prevent future flooding by improving the levees at Birdland and Central Place. Senator Harkin helped support these local efforts by supporting authorizations and funding for these projects, which totaled approximately \$20 million, of which the federal government provided almost \$13 million. These levees were completed in 2011, and the City is now exploring options for revitalizing and growing the neighborhoods they protect.

Harkin learned an important lesson following the 1993 floods — the most cost-effective way to recover from natural disasters is to prevent them in the first place. In response to the 1993 floods, **Harkin significantly expanded the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program, which helps to limit the impact of future disasters by enabling buyouts and improvements to properties in flood prone areas**. While this program alone was not enough to prevent the 2008 floods, the expanded Hazard Mitigation Program has proven to be very effective in helping Iowans rebuild and take steps to prevent future disasters. All told, the program has provided over \$100 million in federal funds to limit the damage caused by flooding at over 2,700 properties in Iowa.

SERVING IOWANS — Senator Harkin has never forgotten that a large part of his role in Washington is to help Iowan's and Iowa communities in need of assistance from the Federal government. In 2012 the Harkin office logged the 100,000th constituent case. Iowans have counted on Harkin throughout his career to assist with issues such as housing, veteran's benefits, Social Security, and Medicare. Thanks to their work, in the last five years alone over 600 veterans and their families across Iowa have the medals they earned as a result of service to our country but never received. When a constituent, Bob Anderson, wrote a letter to Harkin saying that he was sick with lymphoma as a result of his nuclear weapon work at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant Harkin did not stop until he has secured compensation for hundreds of ill workers and their survivors in Burlington and Ames.

The Iowa that Tom Harkin leaves behind is a vibrant state that offers tremendous quality of life with businesses that have made long term investments. Neighborhoods, roads, and bridges, community health centers and elementary schools, museums and cultural institutions, biorefineries, bike trails and agricultural research companies, small-town main streets, universities, and urban downtowns have all been supported by federal dollars and by Tom Harkin's work toward a livable Iowa for future generations.